(c) whether Government have taken any action against them; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) As per reports of Oil Companies no such case has been detected recently.

Oil refineries

1082. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to raise the capacity of crude refining in the country;

(b) if so, which are the places Government have selected for setting up of oil refineries; and

(c) what is likely to be the total capacity of the refineries proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Besides expansion/debottlenecking of the existing refineries there are proopsals for setting up new refineries at Karnal, Mangalore, Numaligarh and Narimanam at various stages of approval/implementation. These new refineries will result in creation of an additional capacity of 12.5 MMT per annum. It is also proposed to set up three new grass root refineries, each with a capacity of 6 MMT per annum, to be located in Eastern India, Central India and Western India, during 8th/9th Five Year Plans.

Total capacity of oil refineries

1083. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Oil refineries with total capacity presently operating in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the capacity is not adequate to meet the demand; and

(c) what steps Government are talking to fill the gap between supply and demand including augmentation of existing capacity?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Twelve Oil refineries with a total capacity of 51.85 MMTPA.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) At present the gap between demand and indigenous availability is being met by import of petroleum products. Additional refining capacity is being created by expansion/debottlenecking of the existing refineries are by setting up of new grassroot refineries.

Self sufficiency in oil technology

1084. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any project for achieving self-sufficiency in oil technology in the immediate future; and

(b) if so, by when such technology is likely to become operative?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (b) Advancement of technology is a continuous process and it is in the interest of the country to use the best possible technology available.

Sharing of financial risk

1085. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have offered to share financial risk in oil exploration by foreign companies;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) what is the approximate annual financial outlay for such risk-sharing; and

(d) whether there is any limit set for risk sharing in financial terms?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) The terms of the Fourth Round of bidding provide Government or its nominee with the option of taking a participating interest of 10 per cent in the venture from the date of signing the contract with the provision to take an addiional 30 per cent working interest at the time of development of a hydrocarbon discovery. The last date for submission of bids in 15th April, 1992.

Natural gas division

1086. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a New Natural Gas Division;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to formulate a "new gas use policy" after the creation of this New Division;

(d) if so, the salient features of the policy; and

(e) the loss suffered by the country due to flaring wastage of Natural Gas during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) At the selling price of Rs. 500 per thousand cu. mts. in the North East and Rs. 1400 per thousand cu. mts. in the rest of the country, Rs. 530 crores, Rs. 808 crores and Rs. 723 crores in the years 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 respectively.

पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों का आयात

1087. **श्री राम जेठमलानी :**
श्री रणजीत सिंह :

क्या **पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 13 फरवरी, 1992 के "इकोनामिक टाइम्स" में "रूपीज 3,000 करोर मोर फारेन एक्सचेंज साट फार क्रूड पेट्रो–गुड्स इम्पोर्ट" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि इराक ने भारत की अनेक कम्पनियों को देय धन-राशि का कच्चे-तेल की आपूर्ति के द्वारा भुगतान करने का निर्णय किया है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने इस संबंध में संयुक्त स्थापित किया है ;

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ङ) इराक की ओर कुल कितनी धनराशि बकाया है जिसका कि वह कच्चे तेल की आपूर्ति के रूप में भुगतान करने हेतु तैयार है ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री (श्री बी. शंकरानन्द) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) से (ङ) इराक सरकार ने समय-समय पर भारतीय कम्पनियों को देय धन-राशि को वसूल करने के लिए तेल की सप्लाई करने की अपनी इच्छा व्यक्त की है, बशर्ते इस उद्देश्य के लिए इराक द्वारा तेल निर्यात की अनुमति संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ सुरक्षा परिषद् की मंजूरी समिति से इस आशय की स्वीकृति प्राप्त होगी । भारत के स्थाई मिसन के माध्यम से इस आशय की स्वीकृति की मंजूरी समिति के समक्ष मामला रखा गया था तथा उस समिति ने प्रस्तावित करार पर अपनी मंजूरी नहीं दी ।